A DECLARATION BY THE Kings Majesty,

To His Subjects of the

KINGDOMS OF *Scotland*, *England*, and *Ireland*.

Printed at *Edinburgh*. 1650.

A

A

DECLARATION

BY THE

Kings Majesty,

To His Subjects of the Kingdoms of *Scotland*, *England*, and *Ireland*. Printed at *Edinburgh*. 1650.

Sect. I. HIs Majesty taking in consideration, that merciful Dispensation of Divine Providence, by which he hath been recovered out of the snare of Evil Counsel; and having attained so full perswasion and confidence of the Loyalty of his People in *Scotland*, with whom he hath too long stood at a distance; and of the Righteousness of their Cause, as to joyn in one Covenant with them, and to cast himself and his Interests wholly upon God; and in all matters Civil, to follow the Advice of his Parliament, and such as shall be intrusted by them; and in all matters Ecclesiastick, the Advice of the General Assembly and their Commissioners; and being sensible of his duty to God, and desirous to approve himself to the consciences of all his good Subjects, and to stop the mouths of his and their Enemies and Traducers, doth in reference to his former Deportments, and as to his Resolutions for the future, Declare as follows.

Sect. II. Though His Majesty as a dutiful Son be obliged to honour the memory of His Royal Father, and have in estimation the person of His Mother; yet doth He desire to be deeply humbled and afflicted in Spirit before God, because of His Fathers hearkning to, and following evil Counsels, and His opposition to the Work of Reformation, and to the Solemn League and

Covenant, by which ſo much of the blood of the Lords People hath been ſhed in theſe Kingdoms; and for the Idolatry of His Mother, the Toleration whereof in the Kings Houſe, as it was matter of great ſtumbling to all the Proteſtant Churches, ſo could it not but be an high provocation againſt him who is a jealous God, viſiting the ſins of the Fathers upon the Children: And albeit, His Majeſty might extenuate His former Carriages and Actions, in following of the advice, and walking in the way of thoſe who are oppoſite to the Covenant and to the work of God, and might excuſe His delaying to give ſatisfaction to the juſt and neceſſary Deſires of the Kirk and Kingdom of *Scotland*, from his education, and age, and evil Counſel, and Company, and from the ſtrange and inſolent proceedings of Sectaries againſt His Royal Father; and in reference to Religion and the ancient Government of the Kingdom of *England*, to which He hath the undoubted Right of Succeſſion; yet knowing that He hath to do with God, He doth ingenuouſly acknowledge all His own ſins, and all the ſins of His Fathers Houſe, craving pardon, and hoping for mercy and reconciliation through the blood of Jeſus Chriſt. And as He doth value the conſtant Addreſſes that were made by His people to the Throne of grace on His behalf, when He ſtood in oppoſition to the Work of God, as a ſingular Teſtimony of Long-ſuffering, patience and mercy upon the Lords part, and loyalty upon theirs; ſo doth He hope, and ſhall take it as one of the greateſt tokens of their love and affection to Him and to His Government, That they will continue in Prayer and Supplication to God for Him; That the Lord, who ſpared and preſerved Him to this day, notwithſtanding of all His Own guiltineſs, may be at peace with Him, and give Him to fear the Lord His God, and to ſerve him with a perfect heart and with a willing minde all the dayes of His Life.

Sect. 3. And His Majeſty having, upon full perſwaſion of the Juſtice and Equity of all the Heads and Articles thereof, now Sworn and Subſcribed the National Covenant of the Kingdom of *Scotland*, and the Solemn League and Covenant of the three Kingdoms of *Scotland*, *England*, and *Ireland*, Doth Declare, That He hath not Sworn and Subſcribed theſe Covenants, and entred into the Oath of God with his People, upon any ſiniſter Intention and crooked Deſign, for attaining His Own Ends; but, ſo far as Humane Weakneſs will permit, in the truth and ſincerity of His heart: And that He is firmly Reſolved, in the Lords ſtrength, to adhere therero, and to proſecute to the utmoſt of His power, all the Ends thereof, in his Station and Calling, really, conſtantly and ſincerely all the dayes of His life. In order to which, He doth in the firſt place Profeſs and Declare, That He will have no Enemies, but the Enemies of the Covenant; and that He will have no Friends, but the Friends of the Covenant: And therefore, as He doth now deteſt and abhorre

all.

all Popery, Superſtition and Idolatry, together with Prelacy, and all Errors Hereſie, Schiſm and Prophaneneſs, and reſolves not to tolerate, much leſs allow any of theſe in any part of His Majeſties Dominions, but to oppoſe Himſelf thereto, and to endeavour the Extirpation thereof to the utmoſt of His power; ſo doth He as a Chriſtian Exhort, and as a King Require, That all ſuch of His Subjects, who have ſtood in Oppoſition to the Solemn League and Covenant, and Work of Reformation, upon a pretence of Kingly Intereſt, or any other pretext whatſoever, to lay down their Enmity againſt the Cauſe and People of God, and to ceaſe to preferre the Interſt of Man to the Intereſt of God; which hath been one of thoſe things which hath occaſioned many Troubles and Calamities in theſe Kingdoms, and being inſiſted into, will be ſo farre from Eſtabliſhing of the Kings Throne, that it will prove an Idol of Jealouſie, to provoke unto wrath him who is King of kings, and Lord of lords. The King ſhall alwayes eſteem them beſt Servants, and moſt Loyal Subjects, who ſerve Him, and ſeek His Greatneſs in a right line of ſubordination unto God; *Giving unto God the things that are Gods, and unto Caſar the things that are Caſars:* And Reſolveth, not to love or countenance any who have ſo little Conſcience and Piety, as to follow his Intereſts with a prejudice to the Goſpel and the Kingdom of Jeſus Chriſt, which He looks not upon as a duty, but as flattery, and driving of Self-Deſignes, under a pretence of maintaining Royal Authority and Greatneſs. *Secondly*, His Majeſty being convinced in Conſcience of the exceeding great Sinfulneſs and Unlawfulneſs of that Treaty and Peace made with the Bloody *Iriſh* Rebels, who treacherouſly ſhed the Blood of ſo many of His Faithful and Loyal Subjects in *Ireland*, and of allowing unto them the Liberty of the Popiſh Religion; for the which He doth from His heart deſire to be deeply humbled before the Lord: And likewiſe conſidering how many Breaches have been upon their part, Doth Declare the ſame to be void, and that His Majeſty is abſolved therefrom; being truly ſorry that He ſhould have ſought unto ſo unlawful Help for Reſtoring of Him to His Throne, and reſolving, for the time to come, rather to chooſe Affliction than Sin. *Thirdly*, As His Majeſty did in the late Treaty with His people in this Kingdom, agree to recall and annull all Commiſſions againſt any of His Subjects who did adhere to the Covenant and Monarchical Government in any of His Kingdoms: So doth He now Declare, That by Commiſſionating of ſome perſons by Sea againſt the people of *England*, He did not intend Damage or Injury to His oppreſt and harmleſs Subjects in that Kingdom, who follow their Trade of Merchandize in their lawful Callings, but only the oppoſing and ſuppreſſing of thoſe who had Uſurped the Government; and not only barre Him from his juſt Right, but alſo exerciſe an Arbitrary Power over His people, in thoſe things which con-

cern

cern their Persons, Consciences and Estates: And as since His coming into *Scotland* He hath given no Commissions against any of His Subjects in *England* or *Ireland*, so He doth hereby Assure and Declare, That He will give none to their prejudice or damage; and whatever shall be the Wrongs of these Usurpers, That He will be so farre from avenging these upon any who are free thereof, by interrupting or stopping the liberty of Trade and Merchandize, or otherwise, That He will seek their good, and to the utmost employ His Royal Power, That they may be protected and defended against the unjust Violence of all men whatsoever. And albeit His Majesty desires to construct well of the Intentions of those (in reference to His Majesty) who have been active in Council or Arms against the Covenant; yet, being convinced that it doth conduce for the Honour of God, the good of His Cause, and His Own Honour and Happiness, and for the Peace and Safety of these Kingdoms, That such be not employed in places of Power and Trust, He doth Declare, That He will not employ, nor give Commissions to any such, untill they have not only taken, or renewed the Covenant, but also have given sufficient evidences of their Integrity, Carriage and Affection to the Work of Reformation, and shall be declared capable of Trust by the Parliament of either Kingdom respective: And His Majesty, upon the same grounds, doth hereby recall all Commissions given to any such persons; conceiving all such persons will so much tender a good Understanding betwixt Him and His Subjects, and the settling and preserving a firm Peace in these Kingdoms, That they will not grudge nor repine at His Majesties Resolutions and Proceedings herein, much less upon discontent act any thing in a divided way, unto the raising of New Troubles, especially since upon their pious and good deportmen, there is a Regress left unto them in manner above expres'd.

Sect. IV. And as His Majesty hath given satisfaction to the just and necessary Desires of the Kirk and Kingdom of *Scotland*, so doth He hereby assure and declare, That He is no less willing and desirous to give satisfaction to the just and necessary Desires of His good Subjects in *England* and *Ireland*; and in token thereof, if the Houses of Parliament of *England*, sitting in Freedom, shall think fit to present unto Him the Propositions of Peace, agreed upon by both Kingdoms, He will not only accord to the same, and such alterations thereanent, as the Houses of Parliament, in regard of the Constitution of affairs, and the good of His Majesty and His Kingdoms, shall judge necessary, but do what is further necessary for prosecuting the ends of the Solemn League and Covenant, especially in those things which concern the Reformation of the Church of *England*, in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, and Government; That not only the Directory of Worship, the Confession of Faith, and Catechism, but also the Propositions and Directory for Church-Govern-

Government, accorded upon by the Synod of Divines at *Weſtminſter*, may be ſettled; and that the Church of *England* may enjoy the full Liberty and Freedom of all Aſſemblies, and Power of Kirk-Cenſures, and of all the Ordinances of Jeſus Chriſt, according to the Rule of his own Word: And that whatſoever is commanded by the God of Heaven, may be diligently done for the Houſe of the God of Heaven; and, whatever heretofore hath been the ſuggeſtions of ſome to him, to render His Majeſty jealous of His Parliament, and of the Servants of God: Yet as He hath declared, that in *Scotland* He will hearken to their Counſel, and follow their Advice in thoſe things that concern that Kingdom and Kirk; So doth He alſo declare His firm Reſolution to manage the Government of the Kingdom of *England* by the Advice of His Parliament, conſiſting of an Houſe of Lords and of an Houſe of Commons there; and in thoſe things that concern Religion, to preferre the counſels of the Miniſters of the Goſpel to all other Counſels whatſoever. And that all the world may ſee how much He tenders the ſafety of His people, and how precious their Blood is in His ſight, and how deſirous He is to recover His Crown and Government in *England* by peaceable means; as He doth eſteem the ſervice of thoſe who firſt engaged in the Covenant, and have ſince that time faithfully followed the ends thereof, to be Duty to God, and Loyalty to Him; ſo is He willing, in regard of others who have been involved in theſe late Commotions in *England*, againſt Religion and Government, to paſs an Act of Oblivion, excepting only ſome few in that Nation who have been chief Obſtructers of the work of Reformation, and chief Authors of the change of the Government, and of the Murther of His Royal Father. Provided, That theſe who are to have the benefit of this Act, lay down Arms, and return unto the obedience of their lawful Soveraign.

Sect. V. The Committee of Eſtates of the Kingdom, and General Aſſembly of the Kirk of *Scotland*, having declared ſo fully in what concerns the Sectaries, and the preſent Deſigns, Reſolutions and Actings of their Army againſt the Kingdom of *Scotland*: And the ſame Committee and Aſſembly having ſufficiently laid open publique Dangers and Duties, both upon the right hand and upon the left, It is not needful for His Majeſty to add any thing thereunto; except, That in thoſe things He doth commend and approve them, and that He Reſolves to live and dye with them, and His Loyal Subjects, in proſecution of the Ends of the Covenant.

Sect. VI. And whereas that prevailing party in *England*, after all their ſtrange Uſurpations, and inſolent Actings in that Land, Do not only keep His Majeſty from the Government of that Kingdom by force of Arms, but alſo have now Invaded the Kingdom of *Scotland*, who have deſerved better things at their hands, and againſt whom they have no juſt quarrel; His Majeſty

283861

justly doth therefore desire and expect, That all His good Subjects in *England*, who are and resolve to be faithful to God and to their King, according to the Covenant, will lay hold upon such an opportunity, and use their utmost endeavors to promove the Covenant, and all the ends thereof, and to recover and re-establish the Ancient Government of the Kingdom of *England* (under which, for many Generations, it did flourish in peace and plenty at home, and in Reputation abroad) and Priviledges of the Parliament, and Native and Just Liberty of the People: His Majesty desires to assure Himself, That there doth remain in these so much confidence of their Duty to Religion, their King and Countrey, and so many sparkles of the ancient *English* Valor, which shined so eminently in their Noble Ancestors, as will put them on to bestirre themselves for the breaking the Yoke of those mens Oppressions from off their Necks: Shall men of Conscience and Honour set Religion, Liberties and Government at so low a Rate, as not rather to undergo any hazard, before they be thus deprived of them? Will not all generous men count any Death more tolerable, than to live in servitude all their dayes? And will not Posterity blame those who dare attempt nothing for themselves, and for their Children, in so good a Cause, in such an Exigent? Whereas if they gather themselves, and take courage, putting on a Resolution answerable to so Noble and just an Enterprize, they shall honor God, and gain themselves the Reputation of Pious men, worthy Patriots, and Loyal Subjects, and be called *The Repairers of the Breach*, by the present and succeeding Generations; and they may certainly promise to themselves a Blessing from God upon so just and honorable undertaking for the Lord, and for his Cause, for their own Liberties, their Native King and Countrey, and the unvaluable good and happiness of their Posterity. Whatever hath formerly been His Majesties guiltiness before God, and the bad success that these have had who owned His Affairs, whilst He stood in Opposition to the Work of God; yet the state of the question being now altered, and His Majesty having obtained Mercy to be on Gods side, and to preferre Gods Interest before His Own, He hopes, That the Lord will be gracious, and countenance his own Cause in the hands of weak and sinful Instruments, against all Enemies whatsoever. This is all that can be said by His Majesty at present, to those in *England* and *Ireland*, at such a distance; and as they shall acquit themselves at this time in the active discharge of their necessary Duties, so shall they be accepted before God, endeared to His Majesty, and their Names had in remembrance throughout the World. Given at Our Court at *Dunfermlin* the sixteenth day of *August*, 1650. and in the second year of Our Raign.

FINIS.